The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Eleven wells.

" (*b*) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to subsidy loans granted. The figures are—

Rs. 85,000 for 1950–51 and Rs. 1,02,500 for 1951–52.

" (*c*) It is presumed that the hon .Member refers to takkavi loans. The figures are—

Rs. 2,950 for 1950–51 and Rs. 4,800 for 1951–52.

" (*d*) No Harijan agriculturists received the benefit in those two years."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" ஹரிஜனங்களிடமிருந்து குடிதண்ணீருக்காக கிணறுகள் வெட்ட வேண்டும் என்றும், எத்தனை கிணறுகள் வேண்டும் என்றும் எத்தனை மனுக்கள் வந்தன? அதில் எவ்வளவு மனுக்கள் கவனிக்கப்பட்டன? எவ்வளவு மனுக்கள் நிராகரிக்கப்பட்டன?"

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" If a separate question is put, I will answer it."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" May I know on what basis these loans are determined, who determines these loans, and are these loans available to-day for distribution all over the State?"

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, these loans are available for distribution all over the State. Local revenue officials enquire into applications and if the rules are satisfied, they sanction the loan."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" 1952-53-ம் வருஷத்தில் எவ்வளவு ஆர்டிசன் கிணறுகள் வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன?"

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot say whether there are any artisan wells at all under that category."

Minimum wages for plantation workers.

* 274 *Q*.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to implement the minimum wages paid to the plantation workers in Travancore-Cochin State to the Plantation workers in Madras State and if so, when this will be implemented?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No proposal of the kind mentioned in the question is under consideration."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Some of the plantation owners of Travancore-Cochin State have plantations in this State also. Whereas they pay Rs. 1–9–6 for first grade workers and Rs. 1–4–0 for second grade workers per day in Travancore-Cochin State, they pay only Rs. 1–5–0 for first grade workers and Re. 1 for the second grade workers in this State. Will the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to ask these owners to pay the same wages to the workers working in this State, as they pay to those working in the Travancore-Cochin State?"

4th January 1954]

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government do not propose to fix the same wages to workers in this State as those obtaining in the Travancore-Cochin State. This question has become an industrial dispute and has been referred to the Tribunal for plantation workers."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" The State Government did not enforce the provisions of Minimum Wages Act according to which the workers will have to get one day's holiday with wages. May I know why this Government have not enforced the provisions of this Act till now and whether they will take early steps to do it? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" A separate question may be asked, Sir. However, I wish to submit that this has nothing to do with the original question."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" திருவிதாங்கூரில் அதிகமாக கூலி கொடுப்பதற்கு காரணம் என்ன ? இங்கு ஏன் குறைவாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The answer is evident. The minimum wage was fixed on the basis of physical capacities, efficiency, outturn and scales of wages in surrounding areas of the Madras State."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லியதிலிருந்து நம்முடைய தேயிலை தோட்டத் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு வேலை திறமையே இல்லாமல் இருப்பதாகத் தோன்றுகிறது. அது எப்படி இருந்தாலும், அவர் சொல்லக்கூடிய இண்டஸ்டிரியல் டிஸ்பூட் டிரிபூனலுக்கு அவர்களுக்குள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற தகராறுகளை ' refer ' பண்ணிவிட்டார்களா ? அப்படி ' refer ' பண்ணி இருக்கிறார்களா ? அதற்கு என்ன நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்திருக்கிறது ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not agree with the conclusions the hon. Member is arriving at. I have not said anything disparaging about the capacity of the workers. This question was stayed because of a writ petition before the High Court and was dismissed. The whole question is now before a Tribunal."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Irrespective of the proceedings before the Tribunal, if the Government are satisfied that the basic wages that these plantation workers are now getting are not human wages, will the Government take early steps to provide them with human wages? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" That is why the Government have referred the matter to a Tribunal, which, I am sure, will take all these points into consideration while arriving at a conclusion."

MR. SPEAKER :—" When the matter is pending before a Tribunal, I do not think it is proper to put too many questions on it. There are many rulings on this point and I have also previously quoted the rulings from other places. The consideration of the subject should not be prejudiced by too many questions."